

this Democratic Congress, is going to do what the Republicans failed to do for more than a decade of their leadership, and that is to present and vote on a comprehensive energy package that will expand renewable sources of energy for the future and create good-paying jobs here in America.

This plan for the 21st century extends tax incentives for renewable energy, hybrid cars, energy-efficient buildings and homes. It requires utility companies to generate 15 percent of their electricity from renewable sources such as wind, geothermal and solar power.

This is our new energy future. And the legislation forces oil companies to pay their fair share for drilling on the American people's land. Big Oil should pay taxpayers to use their land. We will use that money, \$15 billion, to develop clean energy sources and alternative fuels, to develop greater efficiency and improve conservation.

Investments in renewable energy will create hundreds of thousands of good-paying jobs here in America, at a time when the Bush economy is shedding tens of thousands of jobs every month.

Mr. Speaker, this is a comprehensive energy plan. It is a Democratic plan that the American people have been waiting for for the future. Republicans just don't get it. This plan is about the future and not about the past.

□ 1030

ENERGY BILL FAILS AMERICAN PEOPLE

(Mr. WILSON of South Carolina asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, the Democrat hoax energy bill appears to be another disappointing response to families hurt by high gasoline prices. Never mind the fact that this bill was written by the House Democrat leadership, never considered in committee and devoid of any input from the minority.

Among the numerous troubling parts of their proposal is the refusal to allow States such as South Carolina to share in revenues from offshore drilling. What a slap to those coastal communities to say that we will drill off your coast, but yet withhold revenues.

This is the money that could help pay for new roads and beach renourishment. Meanwhile, they insist on a renewable energy mandate that will increase America's electric bills and harm our rural electric co-ops. They raise taxes and fail to address refineries, ANWR or expanding clean nuclear power.

This bill is a hoax on the American people. It won't become law, and the Democrat leadership knows it. This is not leadership and not what the American people deserve.

In conclusion, God bless our troops, and we will never forget September the 11th.

REPUBLICANS CLAIM THEY WANT ALL OF THE ABOVE—BUT HAVE DONE NOTHING TO LOWER GAS PRICES

(Mr. CLAY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. CLAY. Mr. Speaker, for 8 years, Washington Republicans have favored record profits for Big Oil while Americans are paying record prices at the pump. Congressional Republicans say they want an all-of-the-above plan, but their actions speak differently. Republicans have voted against every piece of legislation that would responsibly invest in renewable energy and would bring down gas prices for consumers.

We proposed legislation to crack down on price gouging and curb excess speculation, but House Republicans said no. We proposed lowering gas prices immediately by tapping the Strategic Petroleum Reserve, which lowered prices by 33 percent when the President's father took similar action in 1991, but Republicans said no. We proposed legislation that would force Big Oil to drill on 68 million acres of land to increase oil production here at home. Again, House Republicans said no.

This week, the Republicans will have the opportunity to support real reform and say yes.

NO DRILL, NO ENERGY BILL

(Mr. GOODLATTE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. GOODLATTE. Mr. Speaker, when Speaker PELOSI said that an energy bill that included drilling would be a hoax, she knew what she was talking about.

Last night, in the dead of night, the Democratic leadership brought forward a no drill, no energy bill. That bill is a hoax on the American people, just as she said it would be. You can put lipstick on a no-drill, no-energy bill, but it's still a no-drill, no-energy bill.

I have introduced legislation, many others have, to allow the States to participate in drilling off their coasts. Their bill prohibits that.

We will see no drilling, we will see no oil production, no access to oil production in more than 90 percent of the areas where oil exists, and we should go after it. Nothing in this bill for nuclear power, nothing in this bill for coal-to-liquid technology, nothing in this bill for the American people, nothing in this bill for my constituents, nothing but a hoax on the American people.

MCCAIN'S ASSESSMENT OF ECONOMY SHOWS THAT HE REALLY IS NOT AN EXPERT ON THE ECONOMY

(Mr. WELCH of Vermont asked and was given permission to address the

House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WELCH of Vermont. Mr. Speaker, it's becoming quite apparent that our economy is in peril. The biggest casualty in this economy are middle-class families trying to hang on by their fingernails.

We have got a different point of view by our leadership. President Bush says that the 500-point collapse is just, quote, a correction. Mr. MCCAIN, Senator MCCAIN says the economy is fundamentally sound.

The reality is that the economy has become weak, with policies that have deregulated financial institutions leading to the collapse of some of our longest-standing, historically most solid institutions like Lehman Brothers. For 8 years, the Bush-McCain economic policy has had a radical proposition that we can deregulate everything and leave everything to Wall Street, and it will all take care of itself.

Now American families, businesses on Main Street, are beginning to pay the price for this economic failure under the Bush administration.

The only way we can change our economy is by returning to the basic principle that our economic policies should all be about building the middle class.

EIGHTY DOLLARS TO FILL UP A MINIVAN IS A CRISIS

(Mr. KELLER of Florida asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. KELLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, when a single mom in Orlando, Florida, is paying \$80 to fill up her minivan, that's a crisis. It's a crisis that this Democratic energy bill does not address.

Now, why doesn't it address it? Democratic colleagues at the Sierra Club, the head of the Sierra Club said, "We're better off without cheap gas." Well, let's look at the specifics. There is no ANWR in this bill whatsoever, even though it's the single largest untapped source of oil in the United States of America.

With 10.4 billion barrels of oil available, that's enough to provide all of Florida's energy needs for 29 years. It's enough to give us 1 million barrels of oil a day every single day for the next 30 years, but it's nowhere in the bill.

Why? Because we're better off without cheap gas, according to the Democrats and their colleagues. Well, we are not better off without cheap gas, we are better off without cheap political stunts, and that's what this Democratic energy bill is.

I urge my colleagues to vote "no" on it and give us an up-or-down vote on the American Energy Act.

BILLIONS OF DOLLARS NEEDED TO RECOVER FROM HURRICANE IKE

(Mr. AL GREEN of Texas asked and was given permission to address the